

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 03449 091405Z

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ACTION H-03

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R 091304Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6247

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 3449

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (HUMPHREY, HUBERT H. AND SCOTT, HUGH)

SUBJECT: CODEL VISIT TO NETHERLANDS

REF: A. THE HAGUE 3411

B. THE HAGUE 3377

1. SUMMARY: FOURTEEN-MAN CODEL ACCOMPANIED BY WIVES AND STAFFERS DEPARTED NETHERLANDS JULY 7 FOR WASHINGTON. TWO AND A HALF DAY VISIT GAVE GROUP OPPORTUNITY FOR MEETINGS WITH FONMIN VAN DER STOEL AND EMBOFFS, AND CONTACT WITH DUTCH OFFICIALS, PARLIAMENTARIANS, AND PRESS. END SUMMARY.

2. CODEL HUMPHREY/SCOTT VISIT TO NETHERLANDS JULY 5-7 REPRESENTED LARGEST SUCH GROUP HERE IN SEVERAL YEARS. STOP IN THE NETHERLANDS WAS WELCOMED BY DUTCH WHO ARE KEENLY AWARE OF AND SENSITIVE TO FACT THAT U.S. OFFICIALS DO NOT NORMALLY INCLUDE NETHERLANDS ON EUROPEAN ITINERARIES, AND ARE OFTEN CONSIDERED TO TAKE HOLLAND FOR GRANTED AS AN ALLY. THUS, VISIT OF HIGH-POWERED SENATORIAL DELEGATION SUCH AS THIS ONE TO COUNTRY, AVAILABILITY OF SENATORS TO DUTCH PRESS, AND CALL BY ENTIRE DELEGATION ON FONMIN VAN DER STOEL FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WAS USEFUL IN CONTEXT OF BILATERAL U.S.-NETHS RELATIONS.

3. ELEVEN SENATORS TURNED UP FOR HOUR-LONG PRESS CONFERENCE SUNDAY EVENING, WHICH ATTENDED BY SOME 30 REPRESENTATIVES OF DUTCH AND AMERICAN (NBR, CBS, AP, UPI, PBS) MEDIA. SEVERAL SENATORS (HUMPHREY, DOMENICI, PERCY, AND HART) ALSO GAVE INDIVIDUAL PRESS, RADIO AND TV INTERVIEWS. DETAILS OF UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 THE HA 03449 091405Z

COVERAGE CONTAINED IN USINFO REPORTING WHICH SENT INFO TO

STATE. IN GENERAL, PRESS CONFERENCE RESULTED IN RELATIVELY LITTLE COVERAGE, BUT INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS GOT FAIRLY EXTENSIVE MEDIA PLAY.

4. AFTER MONDAY, JULY 7, MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER (REF. A), AMBASSADOR HOSTED LARGE INFORMAL LUNCHEON TO WHICH ALL MEMBERS OF CODEL AND WIVES INVITED. DUTCH GUESTS INCLUDED FONMIN, MIN OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PRONK, STATE SEC. BRINKHORST, OTHER SENIOR FONOFF OFFICIALS AND PARLIAMENTARY FLOOR LEADERS FROM MAJOR DUTCH POLITICAL PARTIES. ATMOSPHERE WAS EXTREMELY CORDIAL ABETTED BY EXCEPTIONALLY WARM, SUNNY WEATHER. SEVERAL PARLIAMENTARIANS COMMENTED TO US THAT THEY WELCOME VISITS OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, AND ONLY WISHED THAT THEY CAME MORE FREQUENTLY AND HAD TIME FOR WORKING EXCHANGES WITH DUTCH PARLIAMENT.

5. ALL IN ALL, VISIT WENT VERY WELL. CODEL ALSO GOT OPPORTUNITY TO RELAX AND SEE SOME PRESTIGIOUS SIGHTS SUCH AS RIJKS MUSEUM, VAN GOGH MUSEUM, AND MAURITSHUIS MUSEUM. CODEL MADE FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON DUTCH. SENATORS DEMONSTRATED KNOWLEDGE OF AND INTEREST IN RECENT U.S. - DUTCH BILATERAL PROBLEMS (F-16 SALE AND PAN AM-KLM DISPUTE). EMBASSY WELCOMES VISITS TO NETHS. AND RECOMMENDS THAT FUTURE CODELS BE ENCOURAGED TO INCLUDE NETHERLANDS IN EUROPEAN ITINERARIES. GOULD

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